

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05
COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 IO-13 TRSE-00 MCT-01
(ISO) W
-----003908 212245Z /70

P 191935Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7741
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
DIA WASHDC

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USCINCSO PLEASE PASS TO AMBASSADOR DEVINE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SHUM, ES
SUBJECT: BPR GIVES UP OCCUPATION OF NATIONAL CATHEDRAL AND
EMBASSIES

1. ON APRIL 19, THE POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY BLOC (BPR) GAVE UP
ITS OCCUPATION OF THE NATIONAL CATHEDRAL AND THE EMBASSIES OF
COSTA RICA, PANAMA, SWITZERLAND, AND VENEZUELA. IT DID SO UNDER
THE PROTECTION OF THE SALVADORAN RED CROSS AND ASSURANCES MADE
BY THE CHIEFS OF MISSION OF THE EMBASSIES AFFECTED. THE
EVACUATION STARTED AT MIDDAY AND CONTINUED FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS.

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VEHICLES AND BUSES MANNED BY RED CROSS PERSONNEL TOOK THE
PEOPLE WHO HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE OCCUPATION BACK TO THEIR
PLACES OF ORIGIN: SAN PEDRO PERULAPAN, COJUTEPEQUE, AGUILARES,
AND OTHER PLACES. THE AMBASSADORS OF COSTA RICA (JULIAN
ZAMORA DOBLES) AND PANAMA (ELIZABETH RISCO) AND THE SWISS
CHARGE' (THEODORE PORTIER) REPORTEDLY ACCOMPANIED IN THEIR
OWN PERSONAL VEHICLES THE CARAVAN OF BUSES AND VEHICLES UNTIL

IT REACHED THE OUTSKIRTS OF SAN SALVADOR. NO MENTION WAS MADE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR PARTICIPATED. THE NATIONAL POLICE, UNDER THE COMMAND OF ITS DIRECTOR GENERAL, COL. ANTONIO LOPEZ, CONFINED ITSELF TO REROUTING TRAFFIC DURING THE EVACUATION OF THE CATHEDRAL. LOPEZ COMMENTED TO A REPORTER THAT "THE SECURITY FORCES ARE NOT PLANNING TO TAKE ANY ACTION AGAINST THE PEOPLE OCCUPYING THE CATHEDRAL" BUT WERE THERE SOLELY TO ENSURE AN ORDERLY EVACUATION.

2. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE BPR AND THE CHIEFS OF MISSION OF THE AFFECTED EMBASSIES HAD BEEN TAKING PLACE IN THE ARCH-BISHOPRIC WITH THE AUXILIARY BISHOP OF SAN SALVADOR, MONSEÑOR MARCO RENE REVELO, ACTING AS MEDIATOR. THE LAST MEETING REPORT-EDLY TOOK PLACE THE MORNING OF APRIL 18. THE BPR FELL OFF THEIR ORIGINAL DEMANDS (SEE SAN SALVADOR 1721) AND ASKED ONLY THAT THE PEOPLE OCCUPYING THE CATHEDRAL AND THE FOUR EMBASSIES BE ALLOW-ED TO RETURN TO THEIR PLACES OF ORIGIN UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE RED CROSS. CHIEFS OF MISSION MADE CLEAR AND INSISTED THAT NEITHER THEY NOR THEIR GOVERNMENT COULD INTERVENE IN ES-SENTIALLY DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF EL SALVADOR; HOWEVER, THEY DID UNDERTAKE TO ASSURE UNMOLESTED DEPARTURE OF OCCUPYING FORCES FROM EMBASSY PREMISES PROVIDED SUCH DEPARTURE WAS SOLELY FOR PURPOSE OF RETURN TO THEIR HOMES (SEE SAN SALVADOR 1808). ACCORDING TO ONE NEWSPAPER REPORT, THERE WERE 22 OCCUPANTS IN VENEZUELAN EMBASSY, 32 IN THE PANAMANIAN EMBASSY, AND 14 EACH IN THE EMBASSIES OF COSTA RICA AND SWITZERLAND.
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4. IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN THE APRIL 18 EDITION OF "EL MUNDO", MONSEÑOR REVELO STATED THAT ASSURANCES HAD BEEN GIVEN BY PRESIDENT ROMERO TO PERMIT THE UNMOLESTED DEPARTURE OF THE BPR OCCUPANTS FROM BOTH THE EMBASSIES AND THE NATIONAL CATHEDRAL IN BUSES AND VEHICLES MANNED BY THE RED CROSS AND ACCOMPANIED BY THE AMBASSADORS. HE STATED THE CHIEFS OF MISSION HAD AGREED TO INCLUDE THE CATHEDRAL IN THE OVERALL AGREEMENT REACHED WITH BPR ALTHOUGH THE OCCUPATION OF THE CATHEDRAL WAS A "PUBLIC MATTER NOT CONNECTED WITH THE PROBLEM OF THE EMBASSIES." FOR ITS PART, THE BPR CALLED THE AGREEMENT "A TRIUMPH, BECAUSE IT HAS DEMONSTRATED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COM-MUNITY THE SITUATION UNDER WHICH THE CAMPESINOS LIVE AND THE REPRESSION OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT, ACTING IN THE SERVICE OF THE DOMINANT CLASSES."

5. COMMENT. THE EVACUATION OF THE CATHEDRAL AND EMBASSIES, WHILE APPARENTLY ORDERLY AND PEACEFUL, STILL LEAVES UNRESOLVED THE OCCUPATION ON APRIL 18 OF THE EL CALVARIO CHURCH IN SAN SALVADOR BY ELEMENTS OF THE UNITED POPULAR ACTION FRONT (FAPU) (SEE SAN SALVADOR 1854). THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT FAPU HAS TIES TO FECCAS AND UTC, TWO OF CHIEF GROUPS WITHIN THE POPULAR

REVOLUTIONARY BLOC, THEREFORE OCCUPATION OF EL CALVARIO MAY
HAVE BEEN TIMED SO AS TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON GOES.

LUBENSKY

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Message Attributes

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